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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Update 2 – 3:30 p.m.

Sewer pipe unclogged

City crews have unblocked a pipe that caused sewage to spill into two basins between Hewlett's Way and Warlick Drive earlier today. The line was unclogged about 1 p.m. this afternoon, with an estimated 72,000 gallons spilling out.

The line is a smaller sewer pipe that runs parallel to the nearby Northeast Interceptor (NEI) pipeline in that area. Because the pipe that was blocked is a gravity line and not a pressurized line like the NEI, the flow was much lower.

Although most of the spill remained in low lying basins, a small amount did reach nearby Hewlett's Creek during high tide. The city expects to have the waste water in the basins pumped back into the pipeline through manholes by this evening. The pipe was clogged because of debris, including grease and rock in the line. Officials believe some of the debris in the line was gravel used in last week's repair operation on the nearby NEI pipeline.

Officials credit citizens for alerting them by calling the city's sewer system hotline about a strong odor in the area. The City began checking the area last night and located the blockage early this morning when it was light enough to see. The hotline, 341-7884, is monitored 24 hours a day.

Services to drinking water or waste water have not been affected. However, as a precaution, the city recommends that citizens not come into contact with the water.

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For more information, contact city Public Information Officer Malissa Talbert at 342-2736 or 470-8720.